

REMARKS

Claims 174 and 175 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in previous claims 63 and 64 and the claims from which they depended from.

Claim 184 has been canceled.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 3, 66-72, 79, 82, 85, 88, 92, 95, 98, 101, 104, 107, 110, 113, 116, 119, 122, 125, 128, 131, 134, 137, 140-143, 146, 149, 152, 155, 158, 161, 164, 167, 170-175 and 177-183 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 174-175, 182 and 183 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 174-175 include the phrase, “wherein the absorptive region is formed on a fiber material” (emphasis added). Claims 182 and 183 depend from claims 174 and 175, respectively. The Examiner asserts that there is no disclosure of that limitation in the specification or in the former claims 63-65.

In a previous amendment original claims 63-64 were written in independent form as claims 174-175 including the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 174-175 to recite that “the absorptive region is formed of a fiber material including a carbon material or a material adapted for forming a membrane filter.” Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 174-175 are supported by original claims 63 and 64 (and the claims those claims depended from). Thus, claims 174 and 175 fully comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 182 and 183 depend from claims 174 and 175, respectively. In view of the amendments to claims 174 and 175, claims 182 and 183 fully comply with the written description requirement.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the § 112, first paragraph, rejection.

Claim 184 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

The Examiner asserts that claim 184 is indefinite because it depends from a canceled claim.

Claim 184 has been canceled rendering the § 112, second paragraph, rejection moot.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

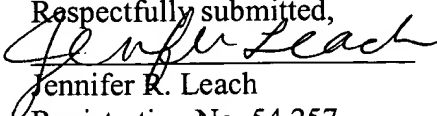
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Respectfully submitted,

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